

Northern Tutchone is spoken in the Yukon communities of Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing, Carmacks, and Beaver Creek.<sup>[5]</sup>

| Tutchone               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        | <i>Dän k'è</i> (Southern)<br><i>Dän k'í</i> (Northern)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Native to</b>       | Canada                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Region</b>          | Yukon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>       | 2,500 (1,100 Northern Tutchone, 1,400 Southern Tutchone; 2007)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Native speakers</b> | 360 (2016 census) <sup>[1]</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Language family</b> | Dené–Yeniseian? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Na-Dené <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athabaskan–Eyak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athabaskan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Athabaskan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tutchone</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul> |
| Language codes         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>ISO 639-3</b>       | Either:<br>tce – Southern<br>ttm – Northern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Glottolog</b>       | tutc1236 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/tutc1236">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/tutc1236</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                             |



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## Phonology

The consonants and vowels of Northern Tutchone and their orthography are as follows:<sup>[6]</sup>

## Consonants

|                    | <u>Labial</u> | <u>Inter-dental</u>   | <u>Alveolar</u>     |                     | <u>Post-alveolar</u> | <u>Retroflex</u> | <u>Velar</u>     |                      | <u>Glottal</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                    |               |                       | <u>central</u>      | <u>lateral</u>      |                      |                  | <u>Plain</u>     | <u>Labialized</u>    |                |
| <u>Nasal</u>       | [m] m         |                       | [n] n               |                     |                      |                  |                  |                      |                |
| <u>Stop</u>        |               |                       | [t] d<br>[tʰ] t     |                     |                      |                  | [k] g<br>[kʰ] k  | [kʷ] gw<br>[kʷʰ] kw  | [ʔ] ’          |
|                    |               |                       | [tʼ] tʼ             |                     |                      |                  | [kʼ] kʼ          | [kʷʼ] kwʼ            |                |
|                    | [ᵐb] mb       |                       | [ⁿd] nd             |                     |                      |                  |                  |                      |                |
| <u>Affricate</u>   |               | [tθ] ddh<br>[tθʰ] tth | [ts] dz<br>[tsʰ] ts | [tɬ] dl<br>[tɬʰ] tl | [tʃ] j<br>[tʃʰ] ch   |                  |                  |                      |                |
|                    |               | [tθʼ] tthʼ            | [tsʼ] tsʼ           | [tɬʼ] tlʼ           | [tʃʼ] chʼ            |                  |                  |                      |                |
|                    |               |                       |                     |                     | [ⁿdʒ] nj             |                  |                  |                      |                |
| <u>Fricative</u>   |               | [θ] th<br>[ð] dh      | [s] s<br>[z] z      | [ɬ] ɬ<br>[ɮ] ɮ      | [ʃ] sh<br>[ʒ] zh     |                  | [x] kh<br>[χ] gh | [xʷ] khw<br>[χʷ] ghw | [h] h          |
| <u>Approximant</u> |               |                       |                     |                     | [j] y                | [ɻ] r            | [w] w            |                      |                |

### Vowels

|             | <u>Front</u> | <u>Central</u> | <u>Back</u> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| <u>High</u> | [i] i        |                | [u] u       |
| <u>Mid</u>  | [e] e        | [ə] ä          | [o] o       |
| <u>Low</u>  | [a] a        |                |             |

Vowels are differentiated for nasalization and high, mid, and low tone.

Nasalized: ɨ̃, ʉ̃, ɛ̃, ǣ̃, ɔ̃, ɑ̃

High Tone: ́, ́́, ́́́, ́́́́, ́́́́́

Mid Tone: ̄, ̄̄, ̄̄̄, ̄̄̄̄, ̄̄̄̄̄

Low Tone: unmarked

### Southern Tutchone

#### Consonants

|             | Labial  | Inter-dental          | Alveolar            |                     | Post-alveolar      | Velar            |                      | Glottal |
|-------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|
|             |         |                       | central             | lateral             |                    | Plain            | Labialized           |         |
| Nasal       | [m] m   |                       | [n] n               |                     |                    |                  |                      |         |
| Stop        |         |                       | [t] d<br>[tʰ] t     |                     |                    | [k] g<br>[kʰ] k  | [kʷ] gw<br>[kʷʰ] kw  | [ʔ] ’   |
|             |         |                       | [tʼ] tʼ             |                     |                    | [kʼ] kʼ          | [kʷʼ] kwʼ            |         |
|             | [ᵐb] mb |                       | [ⁿd] nd             |                     |                    |                  |                      |         |
| Affricate   |         | [tθ] ddh<br>[tθʰ] tth | [ts] dz<br>[tsʰ] ts | [tɬ] dl<br>[tɬʰ] tl | [tʃ] j<br>[tʃʰ] ch |                  |                      |         |
|             |         | [tθʼ] tthʼ            | [tsʼ] tsʼ           | [tɬʼ] tlʼ           | [tʃʼ] chʼ          |                  |                      |         |
|             |         |                       |                     |                     | [ⁿdʒ] nj           |                  |                      |         |
| Fricative   |         | [θ] th<br>[ð] dh      | [s] s<br>[z] z      | [ɬ] ɬ<br>[ɮ] l      | [ʃ] sh<br>[ʒ] zh   | [x] kh<br>[ɣ] gh | [xʷ] khw<br>[ɣʷ] ghw | [h] h   |
| Approximant |         |                       | [ɹ] r               |                     | [j] y              | [w] w            |                      |         |

[7]

Vowels

|      | Front | Central | Back  |
|------|-------|---------|-------|
| High | [i] i | [ɨ] ü   | [u] u |
| Mid  | [e] e | [ə] ä   | [o] o |
| Low  | [a] a |         |       |

Vowels are differentiated for nasalization and high, mid, and low tone.

Nasalized: ĩ, ɥ, ü̃, ɛ̃, ä̃, ɔ̃, ɑ̃

High Tone: í, ú, ú́, é, á̃ , ó, á

Mid Tone: ĭ, ū, ũ̃, ē, ǟ, ō, ā

Dialects

Southern (*Dän k ’è*)

- Aishihik dialect
- Tàa ’ an dialect
- Klukshu dialect
- Kluane dialect

Northern (*Dän k ’í*)

- Big Salmon dialect
- Pelly Crossing dialect
- Mayo dialect
- White River dialect

Vocabulary comparison

The comparison of some words in the two languages:<sup>[8]</sup>

| Northern                            | Southern     | meaning          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| łu <sup>1</sup> ~ łyok <sup>2</sup> | łu           | fish             |
| łígī                                | łàch' i      | one              |
| łáki                                | łàki         | two              |
| tadech' i                           | tayke        | three            |
| łénínch' i                          | dùk' wän     | four             |
| hulák' o                            | kàjăn        | five             |
| èkúm                                | ákù          | my house         |
| ninkúm                              | nkù          | your (sg.) house |
| ukúm                                | ukù          | his/her house    |
| dàkúm                               | dákù         | our house        |
| dàkúm                               | dákù         | your (pl.) house |
| huukúm                              | kwäkù / kukù | their house      |

<sup>1</sup> Big Salmon dialect

<sup>2</sup> Pelly Crossing dialect

## Revitalization efforts

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Tutchone is considered to be an endangered language, as its speaker population is shifting rapidly to English. In a 2011 census, Northern Tutchone was reported to have 210 speakers, and Southern Tutchone 140 speakers.<sup>[9][10]</sup>

### Literacy and documentation

The Yukon Native Language Center (YNLC) describes information in regards to Southern Tutchone documentation and literacy, starting from the 1970s such as stories and songs, as well as a basic noun dictionary and language lessons. After 1984, there have been additional literacy workshops. One example is the Southern Tutchone textbook and audio, made by Margaret Workman, a native Southern Tutchone speaker. This information, along with other multimedia Southern Tutchone language learning and documentation resources, is currently available through the YNLC.<sup>[11]</sup> In addition, in 1994 the Ta'an Kwach'an Council took part in an oral history and language preservation project, in which traditions, genealogy, and more information was documented.<sup>[12]</sup>



Stop sign altered to include Southern Tutchone text as part of a revitalization effort

### Education

Tutchone language classes have been taught in Yukon schools since the early 1980s. Southern Tutchone language classes are included in the curriculum for students grades K-12 in schools at Kluane Lake, and three elementary schools in Whitehorse have language programs for Southern Tutchone. The St. Elias Community School in Haines Junction also offers Southern Tutchone language classes to students from K-12: one teacher handles K-4, another grades 5-

12.<sup>[13]</sup> In addition, the Yukon Native Language Center provides support for schools in regards to language learning, such the "Dakeyi- Our Country" program which is focused on high schools students.<sup>[11]</sup> In 2009, kindergarten classes in Haines Junction began learning Southern Tutchone in a bi-cultural program.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Community engagement

There have been ongoing community collaborations across the Yukon in regards to Southern Tutchone, with varied camps, workshops, and programs. For example, in 1995 and 1996, the Kluane First Nations participated in the sessions of "Working Together to Pass it on", a workshop meant to promote language activities and usage at home and the community. In addition, the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council held its first language conference "Kakwaddhin - Marking the Trail" in 1996, in order to review language programs and draft long and short term strategic plans. This led to successful programs, including the "Following your Grandfather trail" camp in Klukshu in 1997.<sup>[12]</sup> Nowadays there are varied programs offered in the Yukon to continue the language revitalization efforts, such as the Southern Tutchone Language Immersion program for adults.<sup>[15]</sup> In 2018, The Champagne and Aishihik First Nation began a 2 year long Southern Tutchone immersion program, for adults with prior knowledge to the language. The program is in the beginning stages and things are still being worked out, as a program like this has never happened before in the Yukon Territory. In the future, the program might be extended to 3 years, and add more students. As the program currently accepts 10 students. But further details are still being developed.

## In popular culture

Jerry Alfred's "Etsi Shon" (Grandfather song), sung in Northern Tutchone, won a Juno Award in the Best Aboriginal Album category in 1996.<sup>[16][17]</sup>

Since 2011 the Adäka Cultural Festival, an annual multi-disciplinary arts and culture festival, has been held in Whitehorse. Celebrating First Nations arts and culture, with a specific focus on Yukon First Nations, 'Adäka', in the Southern Tutchone language, means 'coming into the light'.<sup>[18]</sup>

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## External links

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- Yukon Native Language Center : Northern Tutchone (<http://ynlc.ca/languages/ntutchone.html>)
  - Native Language Center : Southern Tutchone (<http://ynlc.ca/languages/stutchone.html>)
  - First Voices: Southern Tutchone (<http://www.firstvoices.ca/en/Southern-Tutchone/welcome>)
  - Freelang Tutchone (Southern)-English dictionary ([http://www.freelang.net/dictionary/tutchone\\_southern.php](http://www.freelang.net/dictionary/tutchone_southern.php))
  - OLAC resources in and about the Northern Tutchone language (<http://www.language-archives.org/language/ttm>)
  - OLAC resources in and about the Southern Tutchone language (<http://www.language-archives.org/language/tce>)
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